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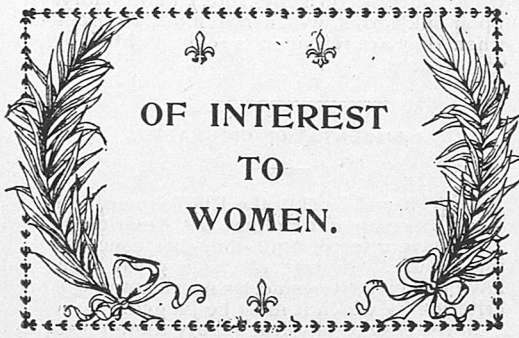
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BY THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

AS THE spring approaches the new schemes in wicker seem to multiply more and more. This season there are charming pieces which can be used in sets or singly. Among them is the Langham settee, a kind of lounge chair which holds at full length the body. It is straw color, with a projection at the back which acts as a shelf, peculiarly suitable for a piazza or upper porches where the furnishing is one which partakes of a room-like effect. Another piece of exceedingly decorative nature, is the Irving wicker settee, which is low in character, with six posts of heavy wicker, which act as a top ornamentation. This affair can be purchased for eighteen dollars and is most available for corner seats. It admits of a large cushion, which can be covered with glazed cretonne in bright tints, and devices in big roses, over-size blossoms, and the like.

HAMPERS in wicker make, are this season painted in different tones of color, the sage green being the most attractive. They are of excellent size, and have for an ornamentation three clasps of a pretty plaited pattern. These affairs are suitable as a convenience for large bathrooms, or nurseries where children need a variety of fresh underwear every day. The price is seven dollars each, and if lined with a pretty cretonne, they present quite a decorative appearance.

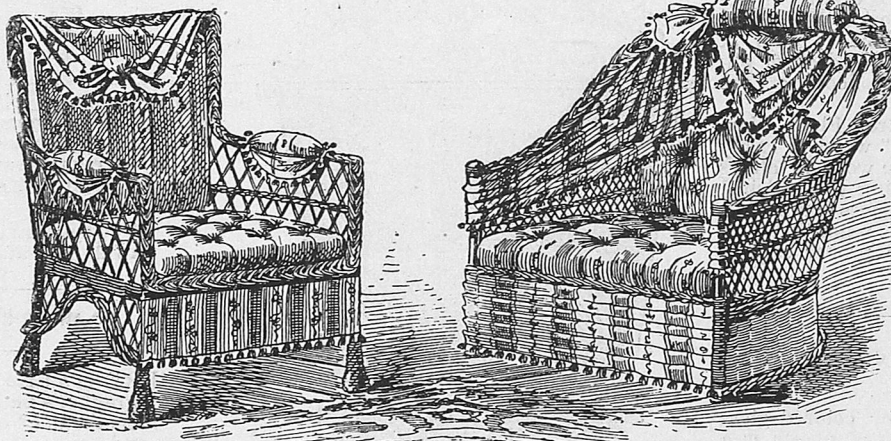
AS FOR chairs in wicker, and chairs in cane, there are samples without number. The Kerr Garden Seat is the novelty this season, and is in three sizes. They are painted in rich shades of green, of spacious make, and can be purchased at four dollars and a half each. The smaller size being peculiarly fitted as a child's chair. A charming present for a little one to use on a piazza.

ANOTHER porch chair is the Margate, in which black and red is the scheme; the colors of a decided hue, and strong in effect. Any of these novelties can be made to take any tint desired. There is still another, perhaps more artistic than the rest, whose ornamentations are four knob-like posts. These upright decorations are useful for the holding of the embroidery bag, or any other scheme of needlework. If well cushioned in some grey stuff they suit

excellently well with the piazza and its furnishings.

COUCHES in this same open work rattan are made in different shapes. The Wimbledon, a beautiful piece of decorative cane, is an English design. A good, honest, large and broad lounge, which could serve as a bed in any small room without taking up too much space, and yet look well. But this affair is not a cheap one, and the buyer must be quite willing to give twenty-five dollars for the possession of this luxurious article, which is so artistic and attractive.

FOR IDEAL summer pieces in the way of furnishings, there are the Yokohama Tea Tables, made of bamboo in all their natural colors. A soft neutral tint, with shelves at the side which open and close. These affairs are wonderful constructions for a lady's use. The table itself is on a broad plan, so cool in appearance, and yet so convenient in every detail, suitable for any room, one of the summer fixings which gives repose, and like all this wicker furniture, its chief merit is the true simplicity of its make, and which of course is its attractive feature. For spring rooms there is a grade of rugs known as the Dhurrie, which is a durable square, of desirable colors, the backgrounds being in light shades, over which is a pattern in artistic lines of good, strong hues, the carpet itself being very



PRETTY CHAIRS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER USE.

thick and well made in quality. Matting is always in vogue, with designs picturesque and of odd shape plans. This season there are a greater number of queer devices than ever before, and most of them are of good fine quality and in patterns charming. Stained floors are always in good taste, the mahogany being the favorite. But even these can only act as a border, and the rug still must be used, to be the plan desired.

CHINA for out-of-town homes is no longer the simple and plain affair it was in days gone by. The lunch set, which finds its way on the country table is one just as gorgeous in tone as those used in the mid-winter functions.

DINNER schemes for every day country wear, are chosen for the wide band, especially those in delicate green. Flower devices are always acceptable for six o'clock country teas, or late breakfasts. In fact, there is no special decoration for country tables, only in the matter of floral

adornment, where wild flowers, field grasses, and wayside blossoms, are so often and charmingly substituted for the cultivated ones.

DENIMS this season are beyond question a veritable charm. They are in splendid white patterns, over the rich blue; sometimes in two-toned effects, in patterns taken from old French productions. What a find to the home maker of limited means these denims are; what a charm for pillows, table covers, screens, a curtain to a closet door, or bathroom window. Stuffs rich in effect for every home if it consists only of one room.

PAPERS as wall coverings are so great in glowing hues, that there no doubt will be soon a reaction in these showy effects. Rows of houses are papered, merely as showy side schemes, by these widespread designs. A pattern in whose plan there is neither taste nor judgment. Masses of red. An all-over device of strong greens or blue, that in any other method would be charming, but in these tones are glaring and obtrusive. Bedrooms, in which a band box paper effect is made by narrow stripes set off by a crude vine in different colors. In fact, the plain cartridge paper is the one for pictures, in which one sees only the tint, and not a decided figure.

Of all places, halls may be given to large effects in striking colors. They furnish the walls, and add to the staircase, making the whole a comfortable place, giving it a warmth, and cosiness look, and above all, a style which for these spaces—especially a narrow one—decoration does not stand out well. But every place has its possibilities, and on that must the decorator work until a fact is accomplished.

THE presentation of gifts at the early meal on Christmas morn is, by certain people, considered the best. Now, small baskets come in which trifles can be stowed away and placed at each cover on that eventful day. Or a bag on which a goodly amount of decoration can be given, is used, and hung to the back of a chair, which the recipient seizes with eager hands. This is the age of improvement; the age where novelties are expected, and where the pretty girl thinks all attention is due her—and to give a present in good form, the wrapping of it is one of its chief attractions.

A VERY pretty and artistic way in which to treat the floors of bedrooms, especially those in summer homes, is to enamel them in the colors used on metal bedsteads. These dull shades harmonize beautifully with the new wall papers and the matting and denim used for wainscotings. Moss-green shingle stain and the dull copper color used on roofs are very effective with white woodwork, and Dutch blue enamel is just the thing for the floor of a room where the fashionable Delft coloring is desired. No matter what color is chosen, the effect will be better if the floor matches the tone of the walls. The enameled floor should be varnished and beeswaxed to gain the best results.